

## THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1887.

## Glen Ridge.

"A city set on a hill cannot be hid." Such is the statement of Scripture. The inhabitants may be modest, inclined to speak slightly of their accomplishments, while, profusely praising those of their neighbors; yet the world, looking upon their noble villas, their beautiful lawns, and high position, will esteem them happy. How strange that men should be so deceived! For the people of Glen-Ridge, though having all these advantages are not happy—not they. In fact some of them are intensely unhappy; and are looking for a victim—with the hope at some time of warning themselves into a state of comfortable complacency.

It is not that they lack water; there is enough for cleanliness and the needs of the table; nor gas, for this is abundant everywhere, on the street corners, at the club, and in the sacred precincts of the home. The world seems to have favored these natives of the hill-country with all that is esteemed most necessary for comfort and prosperity; yet alas! there is one thing lacking.

The Road Board has done its work long years ago—a broad avenue reaching from Orange to Brookdale testifies to their powers. Equally broad assessments have depleted the incomes of the owners of the property lying upon either side. Beautiful building lots have been opened up for the use of the dwellers in the cities near by. Here and there the traveler through this new land catches glimpses of the Orange mountains, the steeples and homes of Montclair, the stretches of hill and valley to the east, with New York and its suburbs in the distance. Yet all the while as he gazes his wheels cling fast in the sand, the mud or the fast-growing weeds. Houses are rising everywhere, water, and gas, and sidewalks, penetrate the country; but the roads—where are they? These highly-favored people have for many a day been forced to live upon promises. A certain place is said to be paved with promises, but here they are not a success—and so they look for something more substantial; even a stone pavement for Ridgewood avenue, and plenty of gravel for Woodland, Lincoln, Midland and Hillside avenues, Snowden, Linden and Clark streets.

Nor should they look in vain. With persistent regularity the tax-gatherer makes his rounds. Valuations increase, and taxes grow apace. Yet the stone and the gravel come not, and the dweller in Glen Ridge is unhappy. He grows humble and begs for gravel or stone. He becomes obstinate and vows he will not pay. He waxes furious and declares war upon the powers that be, and those that hope to be, unless they quiet him with another promise.

Such promises we are about to bestow upon him. On Ridgewood avenue, both north of Bloomfield avenue to Bay avenue and south of Bloomfield avenue to the Orange line, he shall have a substantial stone pavement. It is his due. He deserves it for his patience; and because, as he still continues to build, he will soon pay for it in taxes. To this add gravel *ad libitum* and his cup of happiness is full. This leaves some questions unanswered—that of time, for instance. But no one need worry over a little thing like that. Let us see—how long was Rome in building? and the Pyramids? and the Cathedrals of the Middle Ages? Man should learn both to labor and to wait.

## Public Works.

Whatever the world may think of the honors attaching to the office of town-committee-man, the holder of this position soon discovers that his duties are extremely onerous. They are responsible, and call for the expenditure of time and care. A large portion of them cannot be shifted to the shoulders of subordinates. Whatever his business, the town-committee-man must sacrifice it to the duties of his new position. The needs of the fire, water, gas and police departments must be looked after, while the expenditures for roads, parks, sidewalks and crosswalks are carefully regulated. For much of this work the evening meetings will not suffice. Time in the day must be given, however full it may be of private business. Nor is there any compensation. After two or three years of service most men lay down the duties and honors of this office with joy.

For this state of affairs two methods of relief are suggested. When the time arrives that the town shall cast 1400 votes, let the number of committeemen be increased to seven, elected by districts, as in East Orange.

Let a competent man at a fair salary (say \$2 per day) be employed to superintend the building of roads, sidewalks and crosswalks, and the care

of the parks. If the proper man be secured this will prevent the waste of money upon the public works, will leave the committeemen free to look after larger matters, and give to voters a wider choice of men. The salary can be easily paid by lopping off the entirely unnecessary amount spent for a skeleton police force. Enough money for this latter purpose can be obtained from the contingent fund.

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